



Locally Led Action Track

Updated June 2020

While communities are at the frontlines of climate change impacts, they rarely have an effective voice in prioritizing, decision-making, and implementing the actions that most affect them. The Global Commission on Adaptation's flagship report, [Adapt Now](#), calls for increasing the volume of devolved and decentralized funding available to local governments, community-based organizations, and others working at the local level to identify, prioritize, implement, and monitor climate adaptation solutions. This is now even more important as local institutions are on the frontlines of responding to the COVID-19 crisis and its consequences, as well as the climate crisis.

Action Track Goal:

The Commission's Locally Led Action Track goal is to spur funders and intermediary institutions to expand financial resources available to local governments, community-based organizations, and other local actors, and to help create structures that support appropriate subsidiarity and give local groups greater influence on decision-making.

The Commission is mobilizing a wide range of partners to achieve this goal by pursuing five main activities in the Year of Action.

1. Mobilize international funding for locally led adaptation

We aim to increase the quality and quantity of devolved climate finance. To mobilize commitments, we will engage funders and support them in expanding, strengthening, or creating new or planned initiatives on finance for locally led adaptation action. We will convene dialogues to bring grassroots leaders into conversations with donors as they design mechanisms to support locally led action.

- **Key 2021 deliverable:** A minimum of 3 major donors commit to expanding or creating mechanisms to fund locally led action, totaling at least \$500 million.
- **Long-term target:** Donors, aid agencies and governments significantly increase the quantity and quality of devolved finance available for locally led adaptation action by 2030, in partnership with grassroots leaders.

2. Raise global ambition and establish foundational principles for locally led adaptation

To build upon and support the momentum already created on locally led action, we are bringing together a growing set of partners to endorse a set of principles for locally led adaptation for announcement at the Climate Adaptation Summit on January 25, 2021. Co-developed by civil society and grassroots organizations, funders and governments, these principles will serve as a foundation to guide effective and equitable adaptation and raise global ambition and priority for locally led action. Through the process of engaging these diverse partners we hope to build political capital to develop an alliance of champions who would continue to support advocacy, accountability, and learning for locally led adaptation beyond the Year of Action.

- **Key 2021 deliverable:** At least 10 institutions endorse principles for locally led action leading up to the Climate Adaptation Summit.
- **Long-term target:** An alliance of major funders, governments, international, and local organizations provide ongoing learning, knowledge-sharing and improved accountability and cooperation for locally led adaptation.

3. Improve finance tracking and monitoring, evaluation, and learning to enable locally led adaptation

Recognizing the importance of iterative learning to support decentralized finance and decision-making, and to enhance our collective knowledge of effective models, we are working with partners to develop monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) guidance. This guidance will aim to support bottom-up learning and understanding of outcomes and effectiveness of locally led adaptation programs, and recognition of local knowledge and metrics of resilience. We are also assessing options for improved tracking of finance and finance decision-making to increase transparency and accountability of locally led action.

- **Key 2021 deliverables:** MEL guidance document and paper outlining finance-tracking options.
- **Long-term target:** Learning and tracking mechanisms exist to support donor and implementer capacity to monitor, plan, implement, innovate and evolve locally led adaptation practice by 2021.

4. Engage grassroots organizations

We will work with grassroots organizations and other partners to showcase the experience, knowledge and solutions that local leaders are pioneering to build resilience. Using a variety of mediums such as media, blogs, and video, we will leverage the platform of the Commission to help raise awareness of the imperative for locally led adaptation and evidence for effective and equitable adaptation strategies. We also will convene grassroots-donor dialogues to shape the design of more effective mechanisms to support locally led action, and consult with grassroots and local actors to shape the Action Track's progress and deliverables.

- **Key 2021 deliverable:** Partnership with grassroots organizations and Action Track partners to highlight and share local knowledge and adaptation solutions.
- **Long-term target:** Increased awareness and understanding of the vital role of local leadership build resilience to climate change.

5. Engage national government leadership for local action

We will identify barriers and solutions to enable governments to increasingly devolve climate adaptation funding. We will identify priority countries and provide them: 1) tools to support the devolution of climate funding; 2) knowledge products that fill information gaps; and 3) advocacy for increased public, private, and international funding for local adaptation actions. These efforts will give countries access to a network of partners that can help them better devolve climate funding and implement strategies for enhancing local community involvement in adaptation.

- **Key 2021 deliverable:** At least 5 countries pledge to devolve climate finance and initiate measures to support devolution.
- **Long-term target:** 50 countries have supportive national enabling environments for locally led adaptation action and finance by 2030.

Progress and Updates (as of June 2020)

Below are key progress updates from the Action Track as the Commission and partners work toward the above deliverables, including any major modifications made due to COVID-19.

1. Mobilize international funding for locally led adaptation

- The **Asian Development Bank** launched the Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) at COP-25. It is aimed at supporting governments in the Asia-Pacific region to scale up investments in adaptation through pro-poor development approaches. To support the development of the Community Resilience Partnership Program, World Resources Institute completed a comprehensive review of evidence on community based and locally led adaptation action. The evidence review presents the case for investment that strengthens community resilience and identifies key factors for international investments to reach local levels and encourage transformative change.
- The **Adaptation Fund** announced the launch of a new US\$10 million pilot innovation program at COP25 in Madrid. The new program will foster innovation for adaptation in developing countries, while targeting a broad range of potential finance recipients, including non-governmental organizations, community groups, young innovators and the private sector. The Fund will be managed by UNDP and UNEP, which will each receive US\$5 million to administer and aggregate about 45 small grants (up to US\$ 250,000 each).
- The **World Bank** is embedding climate action with its social development programs through mechanisms such as community driven development programs, social protection programs, and decentralization programs, including a proposed program to scale up locally led adaptation in Kenya.
- **BRAC International** and **Slum/Slack Dwellers International (SDI)** have proposed a scaled-up fund to support locally led adaptation in 10 countries. The fundraising target of the fund is \$100 million. The fund would be modeled after the Climate Bridge Fund, a Trust Fund managed by BRAC Bangladesh, and has the potential to drive investment in communities on critical resilience building measures, implemented through two reputable organizations with strong fiduciary standards, strong commitment to climate action, and extensive on-the-ground networks amongst the poorest of the poor.

2. Raise global ambition and establish foundational principles for locally led adaptation

- World Resources Institute, in partnership with the **Adaptation Fund**, the **Global Resilience Partnership**, and **Climate Wise Women**, held a grassroots-donor dialogue on May 21 with representatives of grassroots organizations, funders and intermediaries working on climate resilience in Africa. The first in a series of dialogues, it will inform the set of principles for supporting locally led adaptation action.
- The **International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** has published two policy briefs on [reforming climate finance](#) and [mechanisms for delivering change](#), providing foundational recommendations for agile, pro-poor and locally led adaptation financing.
- IIED is also developing a “Good climate finance guide.” Based on a review of a selection of global climate funds against a set of good finance principles, the guide will provide lessons for strengthening devolved climate finance
- The Adaptation Fund has commissioned a study aimed at offering an overview of locally led adaptation actions and interventions to advance understanding among the wider adaptation community. The study will aim to generate and share knowledge on the different modalities and

features employed by the Fund for effectively channeling adaptation financing to the local level, empowering sub-national and local level actors to enhance project impact.

3. Improve finance tracking and monitoring, evaluation and learning to enable locally led adaptation

- With Action Track partners we are developing a series of knowledge products to inform and lay the analytical foundation for the monitoring, evaluation, and learning guidance and the paper outlining options for improved transparency of adaptation finance. These include the evidence review mentioned above, a background paper on [scaling local and community-based adaptation](#), and a forthcoming policy briefing on learning approaches.
- In collaboration with **ICCCAD** at the 6th annual Gobeshona conference, the Commission organized a consultation where representatives from grassroots networks and the **LDC University Consortium on Climate Change** shared recommendations and priorities for monitoring, evaluation, and learning for locally led adaptation.

4. Engage grassroots organizations

- The recent grassroots-donor dialogue referenced above served as an opportunity for the Commission and Action Track partners to learn from grassroots leaders, build our network of grassroots partners, and better understand how we can support efforts to decentralize financing and decision-making to grassroots organizations.
- We have organized various virtual events and media pieces to raise attention to the role of local leadership in building resilience to climate change and the challenges facing vulnerable communities, and to amplify the voices of those most affected by climate change, including through World Resource Institute's Build Back Better webinar series.

5. Engaging national government leadership for local action

- The **United Nations Development Programme** supported participation of national government representatives to the Gobeshona conference to participate in dialogue and knowledge-exchange around locally led adaptation.
- World Resources Institute conducted a scoping exercise consisting of interviews with national government representatives, including with convening countries of the Global Commission, to understand priorities and existing efforts to support locally led adaptation, and to identify potential national government champions for locally led action.

Current Partners

- ACT Alliance
- Adaptation Fund
- Asian Development Bank
- BRAC
- CARE Denmark
- Climate Justice Resilience Fund
- Climate Wise Women
- DFID (UK)
- Gaia Foundation
- Ghana Climate Innovation Centre
- GIZ (Germany)
- Global Resilience Partnership
- Green Climate Fund
- Huairou Commission
- International Center for Climate Change and Development
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- International Institute for Environment and Development
- Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium for Climate Change
- Oxfam Novib
- Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
- Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- Slum/Shack Dwellers International
- South South North
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- UN Development Programme
- Women's Environment and Development Organization
- Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing
- World Bank

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